

Message Text

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FOR AF/I

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM ZA
SUBJ: 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOR ZAMBIA

REF: STATE 212861

1. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO BASIC CHANGE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ZAMBIA OVER THE PAST YEAR, EMBASSY BELIEVES THE 1977 REPORT CAN STAND WITH ONLY MINOR ALTERATION. WE SUGGEST DELETING LAST FIVE WORDS OF LAST PARAGRAPH OF SECTION 3 (E), I.E. "FORMALLY...SCHISM," WHICH IS TECHNICALLY INACCURATE. WE WOULD ADD THE FOLLOWING TWO SENTENCES TO THAT PARAGRAPH: "IN LATE SUMMER OF 1978 KAPWEPWE AND TWO OTHER PERSONS ANNOUNCED AS CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF UNIP. PRESIDENT KAUNDA WAS RENOMINATED AT THE PARTY'S GENERAL CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, AND THUS STOOD AS THE SOLE CANDIDATE IN OCTOBER'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT."

2. REGARDING ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SECTION OF REFTEL: THE ZAMBIAN RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS PROBABLY AS GOOD AS COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED IN A COUNTRY WHICH IS EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC DISTRESS DUE TO CAUSES LARGELY BEYOND ITS CONTROL AND IN WHICH A POLICY DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO SUPPORT FULLY THE LARGER CAUSE OF HUMAN
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RIGHTS REGARDING THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COULD OR SHOULD DO IN RELATION TO IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN ZAMBIA OTHER THAN TO CONTINUE PROVIDING THE CURRENT TYPE OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN WHICH WE ARE ENGAGED. US ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA HAS BEEN PUT TO GOOD USE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND WE BELIEVE IT WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

3. US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES ARE GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL PUBLIC. THERE ARE PERHAPS SOME INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS WHO DEPRECATE WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS THE ARROGANCE OF A SUPER-POWER ANNOINTING ITSELF AS THE WOROLD'S CONSCIENCE AT THE SAME TIME THAT SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS EXIST IN THAT COUNTRY'S OWN HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. IF THE USG ATTEMPTS TO PUSH ITS HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS SPECIFICALLY IN REGARD TO ZAMBIA, WE BELIEVE THAT FEELINGS SUCH AS THOSE JUST DESCRIBED WOULD BE LIKELY TO INCREASE, AND COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS.

4. MEASURED US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNATIONALLY THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE SUPPORTED BY THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT.
CLINGERMAN

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